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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re application of: Hartman et al.

Attorney Docket No.: CYTOP035C4

Application No.: New

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

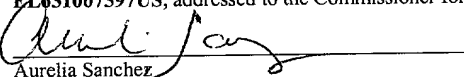
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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Aurelia Sanchez

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS**Please **cancel** Claims 1-17.Please **add** the following **new** claims:

18. A method for purifying actin comprising the steps of:  
preparing a solution of G-actin; and  
contacting said solution with a magnesium salt to form actin paracrystals.
19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said magnesium salt is magnesium chloride.
20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said magnesium salt is present at a concentration of at least 10 mM is used.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said magnesium salt is present at a concentration of from about 25 to about 100 mM.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said magnesium salt is present at a concentration of from about 40 to about 60 mM.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said magnesium salt is present at a concentration of about 50 mM.

24. The method of Claim 18, wherein said actin is from a mammalian source.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said actin is human cardiac  $\alpha$ -actin.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein said actin is human skeletal muscle actin.

27. The method of Claim 24, wherein said actin is from chicken.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled herein. Claims 18-26 have been added. Support for the newly added claims can be found, for example, at page 8, lines 16-31 and Example 2. Applicants maintain that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment and respectfully requests its entry.

In the event the Examiner would appreciate further explanation or discussion of the invention, the Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at 650-961-8300.

Respectfully submitted,  
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